Appl. No.: To Be Assigned Filed: Concurrently Herewith Page 7

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments have been made to eliminate improper multiple claim dependencies and to place the application in better form for examination under United States practice.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted

Raymond O. Linker, Jr. Registration No. 26,419

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000 Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111 CLT01/4615680v1

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV339394562US Date of Deposit October 21, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner For Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Janet F. Sherrill